

Minutes, Kirkland Alliance of Neighborhoods
April 10, 2024 Hybrid meeting: [online](#) and Peter Kirk room

Note: Action items are highlighted in **yellow**.

Neighborhoods attending:

Central Houghton	Lisa McConnell
Everest	Walter Jaccard
Evergreen Hill	Johanna Palmer
Finn Hill	
Highlands	Gary Bustinduy (board member, filling in)
Juanita Neighborhoods	Margaret Bouniol
Lakeview	Aaron Jacobson (KAN co-chair), Judith Beto
Market	Ken Mackenzie, Liz Hunt
Moss Bay	Bea Nahon (KAN co-chair)
Norkirk	Janet Pruitt
North Rose Hill	
South Rose Hill/Bridle Trails	Jim Hoff, Deirdre Johnson, Chris Kagen (KAN secretary)

City Staff/Elected Officials attending:

- Erika Mascorro, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Manager
- Jim Lopez, Assistant City Manager

Guests:

- Sue Contreras, Moss Bay
- Bonnie McCleod

7:02pm Introduction

- Chair Bea Nahon called the meeting to order
- Round-the-horn introductions

7:06pm Public comments

- None.

7:10pm Community Emergency Responder Training (CERT) sign-up

- Aaron Jacobson presenting
- Signups are available for the spring session
 - **Deadline 4/17 for applications**
- Training to respond to major disasters

7:08pm KAN policies and procedures

- Bea Nahon presenting
- Succession of officers

- Policies and procedures don't include guidance on criteria for officers, who is eligible for election
- Recommended edits based on our March meeting
 - A person can be nominated from the floor, or they can self-nominate
 - Must be a resident of Kirkland
 - Current KAN rep or neighborhood association board member
 - If an officer's residence or other qualification changes, they can serve out their KAN term
 - Can stand for re-election if they are still a resident of Kirkland
 - Add a process for amending the policy document itself, by majority vote of neighborhoods (seven votes, at this time)
- Motion by Johanna, seconded by Bill:
 - Accept the document revision as redlined, with the addition of specifying that an officer standing for reelection must still be a resident of Kirkland
 - Approved unanimously

7:20pm City Council public comment rules

- Bea Nahon presenting
- City Council resolution in October 2023 disallowed electronic media display at public comment for council meetings
- Benefits of visual display
 - Captures attention
 - More engaging
 - More easily remembered, more impact
 - Helpful for audience, in and outside the room
 - Handouts are not the same
- Why the new policy?
 - Efficiency at council meetings
 - Who is the audience? People in the room or remote? (Does it matter?)
 - Concerns re: inappropriate content
 - Concerns re: cybersecurity for the city
 - Handouts or pre-mail are OK but not technology at the podium
 - Hate speech has worsened nationally and some are using public meetings as platforms
- City perspective (Jim L.)
 - We do have public attendance of at least one person who regularly engages in hate speech, plus Zoombombers
 - You can email your media to councilmembers in advance
- Q&A
 - [Gary] Can there be a way to submit something in advance for approval?
 - [Jim] That's exactly what the law prohibits: putting the City in the role of arbitration of the material. We don't want to assert judgment on what's allowed based on content itself.
 - [Gary] Is there a way to control that public speakers must be Kirkland residents? That would help with the intrusive visitors.

- I appreciate that that's a "content-neutral" method, based on residency rather than on content. Council considered limiting based on relevance to the agenda, and lawyers said that is allowed, but we felt that it's too limiting to public interest. Need to allow people to speak to issues not on the agenda.
- [Margaret] We're limiting visual media, which doesn't stop someone from vile speech, so it's not really addressing the issue. Are you really just trying to address the problem of this one person?
 - It's not just this one person. At the last council meeting, there were two Zoombombers who contributed hate speech.
- [Jim H.] According to sources (former city attorney), it's legal to establish rules relative to who can speak based on residency and agenda, and you can restrict online access to people with documented, legitimate need (such as a disability).
 - We can limit speech to agenda or residency, but we must allow protected speech. I'll discuss with our legal staff the idea of limiting to residency.
- [Deirdre] Should we make it more of an effort to sign up for public speaking? That could limit the intrusive speech.
 - We do have a process for Zoom attendees and are considering more limitation but don't want the limitation to become cumbersome for legitimate attendees.
- [Bea] I'm more concerned and frightened by hate speech that is spoken than what might appear momentarily on a screen before the presiding officer could shut it down. Several years ago, the Mayor did shut down a Council meeting because of comments from the podium, the TV broadcast also stopped. Isn't that a possibility, for the presiding officer to call a halt, for images or for hate speech?
 - Stopping the meeting may have not technically been the right thing to do.
- [Chris] I don't like hearing the hate speech, but I do support the right to speech. I'm interested in hearing Erika's perspective.

- [Erika] I worry about the impact of hate speech on people of marginalized communities who experience trauma. But I also have to recognize the constitutional rights to speech.
- [Lisa] I wouldn't like to see limitation to topics on the agenda. I often want to comment on things before they're on the agenda. And I use visual aids because they save a lot of my 3-minute time, as when I'm addressing a transportation issue such as a specific bus route. – Also, haven't other cities and organizations banned Mr. Zimmerman?
 - [Jim L.] I absolutely agree with you that images help to convey information! – And we investigated who has banned him and found that NO ONE has banned him!
- [Deirdre] Can there be a display screen of another kind in the room, one that is safe for people to load a PowerPoint? Something like an old-fashioned overhead projector?
- [Lisa and Bea] This policy is limiting public discourse. And it's legislating to a specific, small percentage of the population.
 - That's true. To be content neutral, we must allow all or none.
- [Ken] Some of the reasons given, such as the computer security, are bunk (solvable, and already solved). [Chris] Agreed. The Council resolution (and Jim, tonight) invites people to send PowerPoints in email to councilmembers ... so clearly viral PowerPoints are not really the issue, or that wouldn't be an option either.
 - Agree to disagree, based on what our staff is saying.
- [Lisa] We have content-neutral sign regulations. So why can't we apply those same regulations to display at chambers?
 - That's a legal question I can't answer.
- [Bill] This has been a great example of good process tonight; we can go back to our neighborhoods and explain this issue far better now.
- [Lisa] I hope that we can find solutions that preserve the safety of city council and staff. [Jim H.] I've had experience with having to deal with crazy people, and crazy people can get scarier. We don't have metal detectors at City Hall.

8:25pm City update to KAN

- Erika Mascorro presenting
- Neighborhood Safety Projects (NSP)
 - Technical evaluation complete
 - NSP panel meeting was on 3/25/24
 - Awaiting NSP rep feedback, then Erika will communicate totals back to the panel
 - There are only six projects that were qualified by the process, and the budget covers all of them, so de facto all of them are approved. The remainder of the process (ranking, etc.) is still being done, to justify the projects for Council approval.
 - [Joanna] New construction has removed two rapid flashing beacons from an earlier project; are the beacons being reused?

- [Erika, Jim L.] Don't know but will check.
 - What happens to funds that don't get used in this cycle?
 - Strongly recommend that it carries over to future years.
- Neighborhood Matching Grants
 - **Get your grant paperwork in!**
 - Deadline: April 30
 - Five NAs have submitted. Not expecting Lakeview, Evergreen, or Totem Lake to submit. Everyone else, get on it
 - And, yes, you do have to be a registered Washington non-profit organization [501(c)3 or 501(c)4] to be eligible for matching grants, by city policy

8:29pm Calendar update

- Neighborhood plan update process
 - Bea to pursue clarity on how to update plans outside of the 10-year cycle
- Neighborhood Association articles and bylaws
 - Bea working on this
- State legislative awareness
 - Would like to get a summary report after each legislative session
- Food drive
 - Seeking a volunteer to pick this up in the fall
 - Used to partner with HopeLink
 - **Lisa to check with Dave Asher, others, re: existing plans**
- Communication among KAN [Liz]
 - How can KAN members send email to the KAN email list?
 - [Bea] It's currently clamped because there are elected officials on the list
 - [Lisa] Perhaps we should have another KAN communication workshop, as Karen Story did years ago (and technology has changed a lot since then)
 - There's a whole other topic of how NAs communicate with their own memberships: WhatsApp, group.io, Google Groups, etc.
- Reviewing NA non-profit status
 - Bea got a bid from a law firm: \$2,500 per NA (!!)
 - Liz consulted staff at the WA Secretary of State: Are we out of compliance? Answer: No, if you checked all the right boxes on your annual paperwork. So, apparently, they're not actively kicking us out if our articles and bylaws aren't updated.

8:50pm Roundtable

- Everest (Walter)
 - First in-person meeting since March
- Evergreen Hill (Johanna)
 - We're one big construction zone! Paving is coming at the I-405 interchange.
 - 132nd Square Park is being heavily used: the synthetic field and the playground are very popular. It's a good enhancement.

- Finn Hill (Bill)
 - Happy Hour at the Juanita Cantina went well (~40 people!)
 - Focusing on community involvement
 - Identified ~100 new neighbors who've moved to the area
 - Trying to find a way to engage them: sending mailer (\$600), creating mailing list
 - [Janet] Highlands used to use real estate records to identify new residents and it worked well
 - Hot topic: Goat Hill
 - Green Loop is moving ahead
 - Working to get county funding
- Highlands (Gary)
 - Quarterly mtg
 - Primary topic: the 85th BRT
 - Construction is problematic for getting in and out of the neighborhood
 - Stores to Shores Greenway
 - Also an ongoing discussion
 - Connecting North Rose Hill to downtown
 - Do builders get different consideration for trees than what we get as homeowners?
- Houghton (Lisa)
 - Reviewing bylaws
- Juanita (Margaret)
 - Neighborhood Plan Update process is moving along
 - The Michaels and Goodwill sites are requesting big redevelopment plans, lots of height, concerns for traffic load
 - If you have concerns, please submit comments in writing to staff or the Planning Commission, to become a “party of record” so that you can remain involved later
- Lakeview (Judith)
 - Submitted grant proposal to city
- Market (Ken)
 - Planning garage sale, May 27
 - First-ever social meeting at the Book Tree; went well
 - Easter egg hunt went well; picked the one way that was nice weather
- Moss Bay (Bea)
 - IRS 990N filings are due 5/15/24 – be sure to file online to keep your tax exempt status alive with the IRS.
 - The pedestrian scramble
 - It looks like a kitchen remodel!
 - It's a mess to navigate, but it will be beautiful when it's done'
 - Please patronize downtown businesses; they're being impacted
 - There will be a bike valet on Saturdays, 11am-5pm, at Park Lane
 - General applause and appreciation for Bea's service as co-chair
- Norkirk (Janet)

- Had a good meeting, perhaps driven by talk of the new Neighborhood Greenway
- Garage sale coming, May 27; get map at Deru
- North Rose Hill
- BT (Jim)
 - Public meeting in May
 - Houghton Park&Ride short-term changes are underway
 - Pavement coming up to prepare for pickleball courts
 - Hoping to have a grand opening party
 - Tree ambassadors
 - Want to establish a cadre of informed citizens
 - Lots of cutting down of heritage trees
 - Would like to make this a citywide process
 - Youth position on board
 - We considered adding a youth position, decided not to
 - Do any other NAs have such a thing?
 - [Lisa] Yes, and it's usually seniors getting service hours.
 - [Margaret] Juanita coordinates through Juanita High School, connecting with the JHS school counselor
- Totem Lake

9:12pm Closing

- Adjourned at 9:12pm
- Next meeting is May 8, 2024